UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/WG.6/L.1
14 April 1992

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-fourth session
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Inter-sessional Working Group on
the methods of work of the
Sub-Commission
11-15 May 1992

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in its decision 1991/117 of 30 August 1991, decided to establish, on an exceptional basis in 1992, an inter-sessional working group on the methods of work of the Sub-Commission. The working group, whose members were to be appointed by the Chairman of the forty-third session of the Sub-Commission, after the necessary consultations and on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, would have as its task the elaboration of proposals for the rationalization of the work and agenda of the Sub-Commission, in particular with regard to the:

(a) Preparation and submission of working documents, studies and reports;

(b) Submission and adoption of resolutions;

(c) Structure of the agenda;

(d) Methods and means of dealing with violations of human rights;

(e) Role of alternates.

2. The Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1992/66 of 4 March 1992, endorsed the establishment by the Sub-Commission of an inter-sessional working group on the rationalization of the work and the agenda of the Sub-Commission and recommended that that inter-sessional working group be composed of one representative of each regional group. The Commission requested the inter-sessional working group to prepare a list of specific proposals in draft decision format, for examination by all the experts of the Sub-Commission and adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-fourth session, a list which takes into consideration the proposals and recommendations studied by the Sub-Commission at its forty-third session, and in particular by its ad hoc sessional working group, established in its decision 1989/104.

3. The Commission therefore invited the inter-sessional working group to make recommendations on the following points, taking into consideration the report of the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the work of its forty-third session (E/CN.4/1992/46):

(a) Initiatives for better coordination with the Commission on Human Rights and the other competent organs of the United Nations acting in the field of human rights;

(b) Strengthening the independence of the experts members of the Sub-Commission;

(c) Initiatives aimed at improving the working methods of the Sub-Commission, particularly concerning:

(i) The allocation of speaking time among the experts;

(ii) The preliminary assessment, the preparation and the time-frame for the completion of studies and reports, as well as the elaboration of an updated list of studies and the setting of priorities, as appropriate;

(iii) The designation of the rapporteurs, the allocation of the reports among the experts, including the question of former members of the Sub-Commission serving as rapporteurs, and the role of alternate members;

(iv) The designation of commentators for each study from among the members, in order to facilitate an in-depth discussion of the studies and reports of the Sub-Commission;

(v) The elaboration of a procedure to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the studies and reports;

(d) Proposals concerning the format, the adoption and the number of the resolutions;

(e) Proposals concerning the rationalization of the agenda, including the merging or ending of certain agenda items;

(f) Initiatives which would facilitate the widest possible dissemination of the findings of the Sub-Commission, such as the preparation of a two-page summary for each study. The summaries pertaining to each session should be published separately in various languages, thereby contributing towards better publicity for the studies.

Provisional agenda

4. The provisional agenda, as proposed by the Chairman of the forty-third session of the Sub-Commission, is the following:

1. Election of Chairman-Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Rationalization of the work and the agenda of the Sub-Commission:

   (a) Preparation and submission of working documents, reports and studies:

      (i) Preliminary assessment;

      (ii) Time-frame for completion of reports and studies;

      (iii) Updating list of studies;

      (iv) Setting of priorities.

   (b) Designation of rapporteurs and allocation of reports among the experts;

   (c) Role of alternates;

   (d) Designation of commentators;

   (e) Monitoring the implementation of recommendations contained in reports and studies;

   (f) Publicity given to reports and studies;

   (g) Submission and adoption of resolutions;

   (h) Allocation of speaking time;

   (i) Structure of the agenda.

4. Independence of experts.

5. Coordination with the Commission on Human Rights and other competent organs of the United Nations.

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

Documentation

5. At its meeting, the inter-sessional working group will have before it the following documents:

Report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-third session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/65);

Report of the Chairman of the forty-third session of the Sub-Commission, Mr. L. Joinet, prepared in accordance with paragraph 20 of resolution 1991/56 of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1992/46);

Report of the Working Group on its 1991 session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/16);

Summary records of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights on the debate of the report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-third session (E/CN.4/1992/SR.25-28);

Report of the Working Group on its 1990 session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/14);

Working paper submitted by Mr. S. Chernichenko (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/56);

Working Paper submitted by Mr. T. van Boven (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/57);

Working Paper presented by Mr. T. van Boven and Mr. A. Eide (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/47);

Working Paper presented by Mr. S. Chernichenko and Mr. W. Treat (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/51);

Working Paper presented by Mr. S. Chernichenko (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/55);

Working Paper submitted by Mr. T. van Boven and Mr. A. Eide (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/43);

Written communication submitted by non-governmental organizations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/NGO/21);

Informal working paper prepared by Mr. R. Hatano containing draft rules of procedure for the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/WP.2);

Note by the Secretary-General on the role and competence of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/3);

Note by the Secretariat containing a list of studies established in accordance with decision 1989/103 of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/2).